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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/599,180	06/22/2000	James Arthur Brewer	AUS000213US1	8202

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EXAMINER

TRAN, PHILIP B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2155

4

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/599,180

Applicant(s)  
Brewer et al

Examiner  
Philip B. Tran

Art Unit  
2155



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 18, 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on Nov 14, 2000 is/are a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 14, line 11, diagnostic adapter card 300 cannot be found in the drawing.

Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1-5, 7-10, 13-15 and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Congdon, U.S. Pat. No. 6,311,296.

Regarding claim 1, Congdon teaches a method in a network computer for diagnosing a problem comprising the steps of :

running diagnostic programs on a diagnostic adapter card coupled to the network computer (i.e., PCI management card 200 is constructed or programmed with software running on it) [see Figs. 1&2 and Col. 3, Lines 3-17 and Col. 3, Lines 37-43];

reporting the results from running the diagnostic programs (i.e., reporting errors or failures locally or remotely over a computer network) [see Abstract and Col. 3, Lines 37-43]; and

analyzing the results from running the diagnostic programs to determine a cause of the problem (i.e., the host computer ascertains the nature of failures or occurred events) [see Col. 7, Line 66 - Col. 8, Line 10].

Regarding claim 2, Congdon further teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the diagnostic adapter card is coupled to the network computer by way of an open slot on a PCI (Peripheral Component Interconnect) bus in the network computer (i.e., PCI management card 200 is coupled to the host 240 by the PCI bus 230) [see Fig. 2].

Regarding claim 3, Congdon further teaches the method of claim 1, wherein running diagnostic programs includes running a program to test bus timing, to test bus mastering, to test direct memory access operations, to test data and control registers associated with devices connected to a system bus, to test system memory, to test timeout functions, to test a boot flash monitor, to test input/output integrity for one or more devices selected from a keyboard, a mouse, a graphics adapter, a serial port, a parallel port, a universal serial bus port, a microphone, a speaker, and an audio output port (i.e., executing a diagnostic program to test bus/host clock, to

test a boot flash, to test memory and to test registers, to test I/O devices connected to the bus,...)  
[see Abstract and Col. 3, Lines 3-17 and Col. 5, Lines 25-67 and Col. 7, Lines 7-65 and Col. 9,  
Line 61 - Col. 10, Line 5].

Regarding claim 4, Congdon further teaches the method of claim 1, wherein reporting results includes sending data to a remote workstation, storing information in a log file, and displaying a result code on a display device connected to the diagnostic adapter card (i.e., failures or errors are reported to the remote host, events are logged or recorded, and results are displayed) [see Col. 3, Lines 32-49 and Col. 7, Line 66 - Col. 8, Line 55].

Regarding claim 5, Congdon further teaches the method of claim 1, wherein analyzing results includes detecting the absence of a response from a component, detecting a discrepancy between an expected response and an actual response, and recognizing errors in signal timing (i.e., detecting mismatched response time, irregular time, and timeout) [see Abstract and Col. 4, Lines 41-63 and Col. 7, Lines 33-52 and Col. 9, Line 61 - Col. 10, Line 5].

Claim 7 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 1.

Claim 8 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 2. In addition, Congdon further teaches one or more wrap cables (i.e., cable 12) [see Fig. 1].

Regarding claim 9, Congdon further teaches the diagnostic adapter card of claim 8, wherein the diagnostic adapter card includes a processing means to execute the diagnostic programs, a read only memory to boot the processing means, a random access memory to store diagnostic programs and data to be processed by the processing means, a first external connector to interface with a reporting device, and a second external connector to connect a wrap cable to send or receive sample data (i.e., PCI management card 200 includes processor 218, PCI bus controller 210, local network controller 220, local memory 216, ...) [see Figs. 1&2 and Col. 3, Line 3 - Col. 4, Line 23 and Col. 5, Line 59 - Col. 6, Line 7].

Regarding claim 10, Congdon further teaches the diagnostic adapter card of claim 8, wherein an integrity of a first input/output port in the network computer and a second input/output port in the network computer is tested by connecting a wrap cable between the first input/output port and the second input/output port (i.e., testing the integrity of connection) [see Col. 1, Line 36 - Col. 2, Line 1].

Claims 13-15 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 3-5.

Claim 17 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 7.

Claim 18 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 10.

Claims 19-21 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 13-15.

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CAR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 6, 16 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Congdon, U.S. Pat. No. 6,311,296 in view of Pickreign et al (Hereafter, Pickreign), U.S. Pat. No. 6,539,338.

Regarding claim 6, Congdon further teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the cause of the problem includes detecting a nonfunctioning component and detecting an intermittently failing component (i.e., detecting when a PCI clock stopped operating and detecting a bus/host clock which alternates at an irregular times,...) [see Col. 7, Lines 20-32 and Col. 9, Line 61 - Col. 10, Line 5]. Congdon does not explicitly teach detecting a faulty software program. However, the cause of problem including detection of a faulty program is old and well-known in the art as disclosed by Pickreign [see Col. 2, Lines 9-20]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to check the software in order to identify the possible errors caused by a faulty software coding.

Claims 16 and 22 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 6.

6. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Congdon, U.S. Pat. No. 6,311,296 in view of Ellis et al (Hereafter, Ellis), U.S. Pat. No. 6,256,687.

Regarding claim 12, Congdon does not explicitly teach the diagnostic adapter card of claim 10, wherein the wrap cable between the first input/output port and the second input/output port converts a format of the data without changing content of the data. However, Ellis teaches managing data flow between a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port and a parallel port wherein data is converted into specific signal format supporting the types of ports such as serial-to-parallel or parallel-to-serial [see Col. 3, Lines 44-50 and Col. 15, Lines 12-30]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include Ellis's teaching of converting signal format without changing the content to support transferring of data between serial port and parallel port.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

7. Claim 11 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.



*Other References Cited*

8. The following references cited by the examiner but not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- A) Gutta et al, U.S. Pat. No. 6,122,693.
- B) Heinrich et al, U.S. Pat. No. 6,542,995.
- C) Connolly et al, U.S. Pat. No. 6,467,053.


9. A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS, OR THIRTY DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. FAILURE TO RESPOND WITHIN THE PERIOD FOR RESPONSE WILL CAUSE THE APPLICATION TO BECOME ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). EXTENSIONS OF TIME MAY BE OBTAINED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF 37 CAR 1.136(A).

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip Tran whose telephone number is (703) 308-8767. The Group fax phone number is (703) 746-7239.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh, can be reached on (703) 305-9648.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

PBT  
Philip B. Tran  
Art Unit 2155  
May 08, 2003

  
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